5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the second source flow end point, the first destination flow end point, the third source flow end point, and the fourth destination flow end point all reside on the same node.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first source flow end point, the second source flow end point, the third source flow end point, the fourth source flow end point, the first destination flow end point, the second destination flow end point, the third destination flow end point and the fourth destination flow end point, all reside on the same node.

54. An article of manufacture according to claim 52, wherein the first source flow end point, the second destination flow end point, the third destination flow end point and the fourth source flow end point all reside on the same node.

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1, 2 7 - 53 and 55-58 is noted with appreciation.

The rejection of claims 3 - 6 and 54 under 35 USC 112 is respectfully traversed.

The rejected claims have been amended to correct any potential problem in description. As amended, the claims recite an embodiment of the invention in which two or more of the nodes reside in the same hardware complex. Support is provided in claim 1 and on page 9, lines 27 - 28 and page 10 lines 14 - 16.

As a real-life example, a web page operated by company X may be located on a server, communicating with the Internet through a high-speed link. An employee of the same company X may access the company web page, sending his requests for data over the same link and using the company's Internet address; i.e. the data flow through the internet rather than internally within the server. In that case, the first and second nodes would be the same and the source points and destination points of the flows would reside on the same node (server). Similarly, if an internal Intranet is used, all the source and destination points, including intermediate nodes, may reside on the same hardware (server). Those skilled in the art will readily be able to devise other hardware configurations coming within these claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant claims, as amended, satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 112, firs paragraph.

Applicants have submitted herewith corrected drawings.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first source flow end point, the second destination flow end point, the third destination flow end point ~~node~~ and the fourth source flow end point ~~second node are~~ all reside on the same node.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first ~~node~~ source flow end point, the first destination flow end point, the second source flow end point and the second destination flow end point ~~and the intermediate node are~~ all reside on the same node.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~second node and the intermediate node~~ second source flow end point, the first destination flow end point, the third source flow end point, and the fourth destination flow end point ~~are~~ all reside on the same node.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~first node, the second node and the intermediate node are~~ first source flow end point, the second source flow end point, the third source flow end point, the fourth source flow end point, the first destination flow end point, the second destination flow end point, the third destination flow end point and the fourth destination flow end point, all reside on the same node.

54. An article of manufacture according to claim 52, wherein the first ~~node and the second node are~~ source flow end point, the second destination flow end point, the third destination flow end point ~~node~~ and the fourth source flow end point ~~second node are~~ all reside on the same node.